

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The claims are 19-38.

Claims 19-38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) or 103(a) over Ingrisch et al. (U.S. 6,566,438).

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Present Claim 19 is directed to a composition comprising:

(A) a dispersion of a crosslinkable polyurethane polymer obtained in an oxygenated solvent having a higher boiling point from 150 °C to 250 °C; and

(B) a crosslinker which is a vinyl-type polymer having functional groups reactive with the functional groups of the polyurethane polymer (A).

This crosslinker is added to the composition so that crosslinking between the polyurethane polymer and the vinyl-type polymer occurs during or after film-formation (see specification at page 18, lines 24-26).

Ingrisch et al. relates to hybrid dispersions, that is a dispersion comprising a polyurethane and a polymer, more specifically an acrylic polymer. In more detail, Ingrisch relates to a composition comprising a polyurethane polymer obtained from the reaction in stage (a) of compounds (A), (B), (C), (D) and (E), followed by adding to this polyurethane, in stage (b), the monomer (F) and an initiator (G) and polymerizing the component (F) (see col. 8, lines 30 to 56). The monomer (F) is an acrylate or methacrylate. Preferred are combinations of methyl methacrylate, n-butyl acrylate and if desired styrene (col. 7, lines 44 to 55). By polymerizing these monomers (F) a polymer is obtained that does not contain functional groups reactive with the functional groups of the polyurethane. Hence this polymer is NOT a vinyl-type polymer having functional groups reactive with the functional groups of the polyurethane polymer (A).

As stated explicitly in Ingrisch et al., in the abstract as well as in col. 10, line 34, "the polyurethane/polymer hybrid dispersions are not subjected to subsequent chemical crosslinking".

Hence Ingrisch et al. neither discloses nor suggests the compositions of present Claim 19 and claims dependent thereon, wherein a vinyl-type polymer having functional groups reactive

with the functional groups of the polyurethane polymer (A) is used, which undergo a chemical crosslinking reaction after film-formation. By the statement in the abstract and col. 10, line 34, Ingrisich et al. actually teaches away from using the functionalized vinyl-type polymer of Claim 19.

Hence, Claim 19 and all claims depending or referring thereto are novel and not obvious in view of Ingrisich et al.

For the foregoing reasons, the rejections on Ingrisich are untenable and should be withdrawn.

No further issues remaining, allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or proposals for expediting prosecution, please contact undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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